

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 4, with the following amended paragraph. Support for this amendment if found, for example, in original Claims 36 and 39.

21 The device of the present invention can be used to accomplish this skin-stretching function. This is accomplished by placing the wound edges of each component of the two-component device on either side of the skin patch to be excised. The device is then tensioned as described herein. In light of the fact that the distance between the two wound edges is relatively large in this application, the tension on the device is increased. To ensure adherence of the components of the device in this skin-stretching embodiment, it is desirable to provide adhesive on the pulling elements of the device. In this embodiment, not only are the components secured by adhesive contact between the elongated connector(s) and flat flexible components, but also by adhesive contact between pulling elements and the skin. In a preferred this embodiment, the pulling elements are not removed following application of the device.